reservoir behaviour, not in conformity with earlier predictions.

(ii) Oil fields entering the natural declining phase.

(iii) Reduced production from joint venture projects.

(iv) Constraints in operating conditions on account of law and order problems and insurgency in NE region.

(v) Stoppage of work in Nagaland.

(vi) Frequent power shutdown in western & Eastern Region affected artificial lift operations.

(c) The crude oil production during the year 1996-97 is estimated to be about 33.624 MMT against the original target of 36.312 MMT.

(d) The crude oil production targets for the 9th Plan have not been firmed up.

(e) The oil import bill depends on the over-all consumption, indigenous production & prices of crude oil and petroleum products prevailing in international market from time to time.

Promotion of Rural Housing

702. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to promote rural housing; and

(b) if so, the schemes under which housing facilities are proposed to be promoted during the 9th Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir. The Indira Awas Yojana is presently under implementation in all the States and UTs;

(c) The Schemes under rural housing for the 9th Plan are under consideration of the Government.

Passenger amenities on National High-way-5 in Andhra Pradesh

703. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any model rest areas would be set up by oil companies on National Highway No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that no innovative steps have been taken by the oil companies to improve passenger amenities in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh along National Highway No. 5;

(c) whether it is a fact that no phone or other facilities are made available by outlets of oil companies in the district; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Presently the oil companies have no proposal to develop a retail outlet with model rest areas on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The retail outlet dealers including those in West Godawari Distt. of Andhra Pradesh are required to provide certain minimum facilities like free air, drinking water, telephone, etc. at their retail outlet. These facilities are reportedly available at most of the ROs in West Godawari Distt.

Benefits of Research Work of CSIR to the Industry

704. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific

and Industrial Research has got a relationship with the industry by offering its research results in the country and assisting in getting latest technology from abroad;

(b) whether CSIR keeps contacts with the State Governments by offering expert advice and guidance in the task of industrial development of the country; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this direction in future so that the industry can take benefits of research works being carried out in the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir, CSIR is the primary independent source offering R&D results to the Indian industry. It serves the industry through diverse ways such as contract R&D technology licencing, technical services, consultancy services etc.

CSIR has already forged alliances with apex industry organisations in the country for dissemination of information on technology through interactive meetings, conferences and expositions.

(b) Yes, Sir, CSIR has contacts with the State Governments through interaction at various levels; State S&T Councils, CSIR laboratories and Polytechnolo- Transfer Centres (PTCs) set up in collaboration with State Governments.

(c) In 1996/97 a scheme has been introduced where every ruppee earned by the CSIR on a commercial basis is matched by the Government. DG, CSIR also a Member of the Technology Development Board set up in 1996.

Amendment to the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976

705. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 222 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the details of the proposed amendment to the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 have been worked out, taking into consideration the available infrastructure to meet the housing programmes; and

(b) if so, by when Government propose to introduce the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) Government of India is considering proposals to amend the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 in order to make it more workable and effective by shifting its thrust from acquisition to development primarily for housing. The State Government have been requested to give their suggestions regarding amendments to the Act which are still awaited. Amendment proposals will be finalised only thereafter.

Mismanagement and Technical Deficiencies in DDA

706. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindi daily Dainik Jagran of 4th August, 1996 (Delhi edition), regarding mismanagement and technical deficiencies in the DDA, causing huge financial losses by awarding huge contract to an inexperienced contractor;